

To provide a complete response, Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I which presently includes claims 26-30 drawn to a cell line which does not express or expresses only to a reduced extent one or more specified chloride channels.

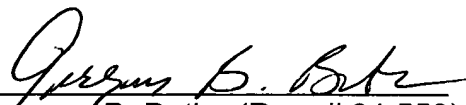
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement. For example, it is believed no undue burden would be imposed by examination of multiple groups, especially groups classified in the same class and/or subclass. For example, Groups I and III are drawn to a cell line with one or more chloride channels and use of the same cell line for identifying substances suitable for inhibiting chloride channels. Each Group has been classified in the same class (435) and subclass (325). The searches for these two groups would be expected to overlap significantly. In addition, no undue burden would be imposed by examining Groups I and III together in which the claims in each group are drawn to a cell line or use of the same cell line. The Examiner has alleged that inventions of Groups I and III are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together. The cell lines of Group I are, in fact, the same cell lines used in the inventions of Group III. As such, the inventions of Group III cannot be practiced without the inventions of Group I. The same reasoning can be applied to inventions of Groups I and IV.

Similarly with regard to classification, Groups IV and V have been classified in the same class (424 or 536) and subclass (9.1 or 23.1, respectively). These groups are drawn to a process for identifying and testing of substances suitable for inhibiting one or more chloride channels (IV) and the use of substances which completely or partly inhibit the chloride channel, CIC-7 (V). The searches for these two groups would be expected to overlap significantly. In addition, no undue burden would be imposed by examining Groups IV and V together in which the claims in each group are drawn to the identification or use of substances that inhibit chloride channels.

In view thereof, reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Although it is not believed that any fee is needed to consider this submission aside from the fee associated with the Petition for Extension of Time, the Examiner is hereby authorize to charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1105 should any other fee be required.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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